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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT Medical Institutions

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REFERENCES

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1. The general institutions for treatment of patients in Bulgaria are organized in conformity with the administrative divisions of the country: areas (Okrŭgs), districts (Okoliiyas), subdistricts (Obshtinas), and municipal districts (Uchastŭks). These institutions are divided into four general categories: Out-patient clinics (ambulatoriyas), polyclinics (poliklinikas), hospitals (bolnit-sas) and clinics (klinikas). The latter term is used only for institutions affiliated with medical schools.

Out-patient clinics

2. There is an uchastŭk medical service or Zdraven Dom (Health Home) at one of the five or more villages of an obshtina and for every town of 4,000 to 5,000 inhabitants. Such clinics may have a staff (dependent upon its size) of a doctor, a midwife, a dentist, a pharmaceutical assistant, a hygienist for disinfections and similar work, and a charwoman. In general, however, these medical stations have a physician only, who is usually a young doctor just out of medical school or an older doctor who already had a practice in the area before the establishment of the new regime. The out-patient clinics provide examinations, ambulant treatment, common medicines, visits to the home, and occasionally have a maternity ward.

Polyclinics

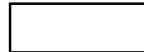
3. Polyclinics are the principal institutions for ambulant treatment of the entire population and are generally organized for areas larger than those for out-patient clinics. Sofia has 24 and Varna has three or four. The general practitioners of each polyclinic in Sofia are assigned to subdivisions of its district so that every patient is linked to a particular doctor who is responsible

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for his residence. They give both ambulant and home treatment. The specialists, on the other hand, receive patients only at the polyclinics, but they will give home treatment if the general practitioner so recommends. The polyclinics have no hospital facilities or pharmacies, but they do have clinical laboratories, X-ray equipment and similar facilities.

Hospitals

4. Uchastuk (circuit) hospitals serve several sub-district medical stations. They have only one physician and attendant personnel and do not give ambulant treatment.
5. Okoliya hospitals have a pharmacy with a graduate pharmacist and a department for out-patients. Patients are frequently transferred from the circuit hospitals to okoliya hospitals.
6. Okrug hospitals also have a pharmacy and a department for out-patients. Patients are frequently transferred from the lower hospitals to the okrug hospital, but they may also be hospitalized at the okrug hospital from the beginning.
7. City hospitals are to be found in the larger cities and lie outside the graduation of hospitals as listed above. Sofia has three city hospitals.

Clinics

8. The clinics refer only to clinics attached to medical schools. Informant knew of the following:
 - a. The various clinics of the Vŭlko Chervenkov Medical Academy at Sofia;
 - b. The various clinics of the Pavlov Medical Academy at Plovdiv; and
 - c. The clinic of the ISUL (Institut za Spetsializatsiya i Usŭvrshenstvuvane na Lekarite Kadri; Physicians' Specialization Institute) in Sofia.

Miscellaneous Information

9. Although the okoliya and okrug hospitals have out-patient departments, all ambulant treatment is eventually to be transferred gradually to the polyclinics.
10. There are special factory physicians; the number at a given factory depends upon the size of the factory. They are responsible only for medical care and first aid at the plant.

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